

REMARKS

Claims 9-30 have been amended. Claims 1-8 and 31-34 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 9-30 are pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

The disclosure and claims stand objected to for the allegedly unconventional use of the terms "joinery," "leaf/leaves," and "bogey." Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, do not use the terms "joinery," "leaf/leaves," and "bogey." References to "joinery and leaf/leaves" have been replaced with references to door or window panels. Support for this amendment is found in the disclosure at page 8 lines 10-14. References to "bogey" have been replaced with references to "carriage". Support for this amendment is found in the disclosure at page 11 line 15, and page 12 line 14. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 5-8, 12-20, and 28-31 stand objected to for the use of multiple dependencies in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended do not include multiple dependent claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1-4, 9-12, 21-27, and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 9-12 and 21-27 have been amended as shown above to address the concerns raised in the Office Action. Claims 1-4 and 32-34 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1-4, 9-12, 21-27, and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by JP 2002242523 ("JP '523"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Figures 5A and 5B of JP '523 are plan views of the folding door assembly. Figure 8 of JP '523 is an elevation of a hinge assembly (as is known from the explanation provided with the English abstract). Applicants submit that Figures 3 and 4 of JP '523 (reproduced below with annotations) show plan views of the movement of the door panels and their seals relative to the frame.

As is best seen in Figure 3 of JP '523, the moveable edges (labeled "E" in Figures 3 and 4 reproduced below) of each panel adjacent to where the frame seal will be located on the frame are positioned in such a way that they will clearly sweep along the frame when the leaf is folded. Therefore, scrubbing against the frame seal will occur.

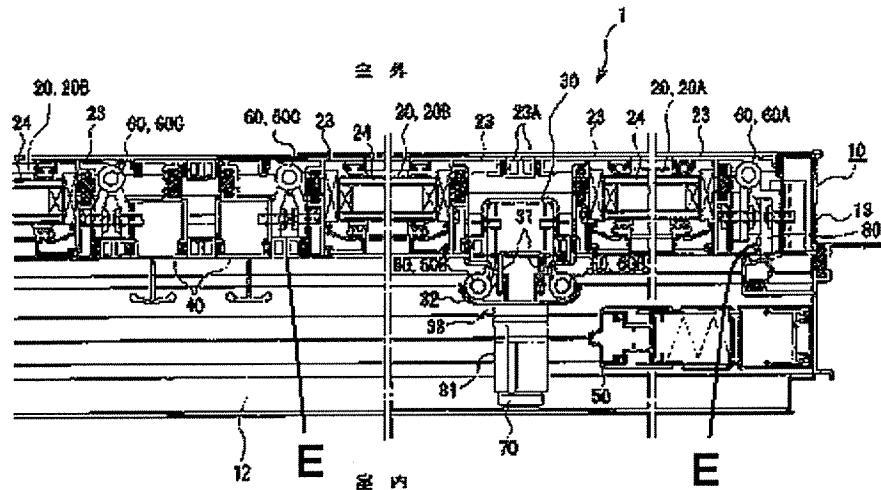
Claim 9 recites "the relative position of the pivot connection to the moveable edge being such that the moveable edge initially moves away from the seal upon the at least one panel being moved from the closed position to an open position." Applicants respectfully submit that this clearly does not occur with the construction disclosed in JP '523. To the contrary, as discussed above, the edges have an initial movement which is purely parallel to the frame upon opening.

Claim 21 recites "a first panel corner having a first arm adapted for attachment to a stile of a door or window panel." Applicants respectfully submit that a panel corner is not disclosed in JP '523. To the contrary, the connection between the pivot and the panel of JP '523 is made by plates 61 and 62.

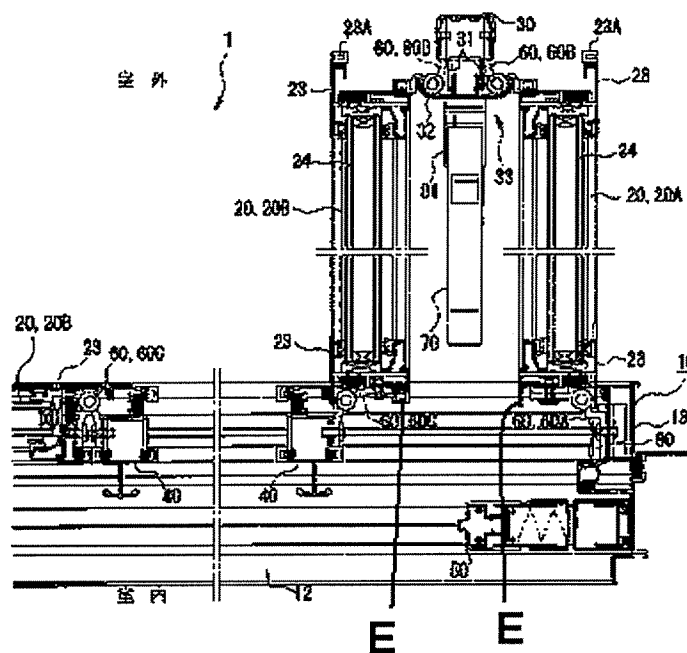
Since JP '523 does not disclose all the limitations of claims 9 and 21, claims 9 and 21 are not anticipated by JP '523. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21 and are

patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

【図3】



【図4】



Claims 1-4, 9-12, 21-27, and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0089464 ("Lewis"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As shown in Figure 14 of Lewis, vertical rods 60 provide the pivot point for pivotal movement of each panel each relative to the carriage. Figure 14 is reproduced below and has been annotated so that the edge of each panel adjacent to the frame seal is marked "E". As shown in Figure 15, the panels shown in Figure 14 rotate in the direction shown by arrows "A" added to Figure 14 below. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the panel edges will in fact have an initial component of movement toward the frame which will exacerbate scrubbing.

Claim 9 recites "the relative position of the pivot connection to the moveable edge being such that the moveable edge initially moves away from the seal upon the at least one panel being moved from the closed position to an open position." Applicants respectfully submit that Lewis does not disclose this limitation because, as discussed above, the edges have an initial movement toward the frame upon opening.

Claim 21 recites "a first panel corner having a first arm adapted for attachment to a stile of a door or window panel." Applicants respectfully submit that a panel corner is not disclosed in Lewis. To the contrary, the connection between the pivot and the panel is made by plate 142.

Since Lewis does not disclose all the limitations of claims 9 and 21, claims 9 and 21 are not anticipated by Lewis. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21 and are

patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

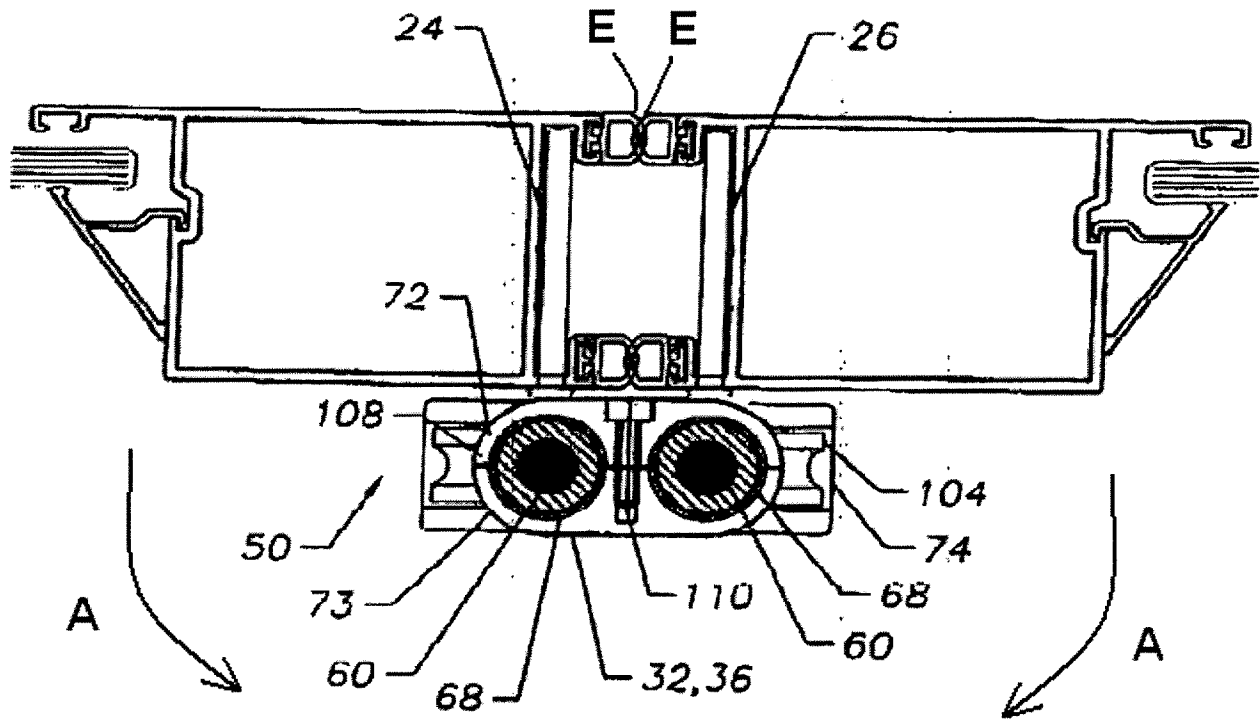
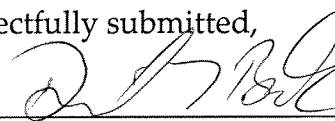


FIG. 14

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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